AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A ~~method of treating melanoma, comprising: administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist selective for the MCR-1 receptor, the antagonist ~~being selected from the group consisting of peptide (a), (b), (c), and (d), wherein:~~comprising a peptide having formula:

$$\underline{Xaa^{6}\text{-}Arg^{7}\text{-}Xaa^{8}\text{-}Arg^{9}\text{-}Pro^{10}\text{-}Xaa^{11}\text{-}Xaa^{12}}$$

~~6 7 8 9 10 11 12~~

~~(a) is Xaa-Arg Xaa-Arg-Pro Xaa-Xaa,~~ where Xaa^{6} is Arg or D-Arg, Ala or D-Ala, Xaa^{8} is Ile or Ala, Xaa^{11} is Lys or D-Lys, and Xaa^{12} is amidated Leu, D-Leu, or Ala, and the Arg in the ninth position may be in the D-Arg stereoconfiguration, and wherein the peptide may have an acylated amino terminus, an anisoylated N-terminus, and/or have an amidated carboxyl terminus.;

~~(b) is a mystixin having the sequence T_N-A_1-A_2-A_3-A_4-A_5-A_6-T_e, where T_N is an amino terminal portion having a molecular weight less than about 600 daltons and is selected to convey resistance against 20 enzymatic degradation; A_1 is D- or L-arginine and D-lysine; A_2 is lysine or arginine; A_3 is leucine or isoleucine; A_4 is leucine, isoleucine, methionine, or valine; A_5 is methoxybenzoyl-ethyl-Gly, methoxy-benzoylmethyl-D-Ala, Tyr(Me), Trp, Tyr, Leu, Lys, Arg, 4' substituted Phe (4'F, 4'I, 4'Cl, 4'NO^2), D-His, D-Lys, D-Arg, D-Leu, D-Pro, or D-Trp; A_6 is isoleucine; with the proviso that not all of the A_1-A_6 are in the L-configuration; and T_e is isoleucineamide, D-leucineamide, D-valineamide;~~

~~(c) is a compound having the sequence Arg-Tyr-Tyr-Arg-Trp/D-Trp-Lys with the modifications as described in (a); or,~~

~~(d) is dynorphin A(1-13) amide.~~

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is acetylated at the amino terminus.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is amidated at the C-terminus.

Claim 6(Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide is anisoylated at the N-terminus.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The ~~method~~ melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3 wherein the peptide ~~administered~~ is encapsulated in a liposome~~s~~.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The melanocortin receptor antagonist as in claim 3, wherein the peptide is p-anisoyl-[D-$Arg^{6,9}$, D-Lys^{11}, D-Leu^{12}] dynorphin A(6-12)-NH_2.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).